IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A real-time virus tracking and display system for use with a distributed computer network, the system comprising:

a plurality of client users having potentially infected client end-user computers, said end-user computers being distributed over said distributed computer network;

a first anti-virus scanning server executing software from a first vendor and a second anti-virus scanning server executing software from a second vendor, each accessible via the distributed computer network, said first anti-virus scanning server and said second anti-virus scanning server each including an anti-virus scanning program, whereby the client users contact the first scanning server or the second scanning server to facilitate virus scanning of the client end-user computers by downloading said anti-virus scanning program;

a scan log which is sent back to at least one of the first anti-virus scanning server and the second anti-virus scanning server over said distributed computer network from each client user detailing ~~some or all of the~~ **specific** results of the virus scanning on each client end-user computer by said antivirus scanning program;

a virus-tracking server for receiving the scan log information from said client end-user computers in real-time via the first anti-virus scanning server from the first vendor and the second anti-virus scanning server from the second vendor;

a database server associated with the virus-tracking server for processing the scan log information into virus-tracking information; and

at least one virus tracking display mode accessible by a tracking user from the virus tracking server, the display mode providing real-time updates of said virus tracking information pertaining to the scan logs, wherein the anti-virus scanning program residing at the client end-user computers generates one or more maps displaying the real-time updates, and wherein the one or more maps are generated and displayed at the client end-user computers.

2. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the tracking user can configure the display modes to show the virus-tracking information in association with user-selected geographic maps of where the viruses are occurring.

3. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 2, wherein the display modes includes a plurality of web pages with user selectable menus to configure the virus tracking display mode on the pages.

4. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein the scan log information contains no information relating to the direct identification of the client user.

5. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 4, wherein the scan log information includes the name of the virus, the frequency of its occurrence, and the geographic location of the infected computer.

6. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein a servlet program on the virus-tracking server is used to receive the scan log information from the at least one anti-virus scanning server.

7. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, wherein a polling program is used to regularly retrieve the virus tracking information from the database server and store it in a data object.

8. (previously presented) The system of Claim 7, wherein a common gateway interface (CGI) program is used to retrieve the data object for display by the tracking user.

9. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein a Java applet running on a tracking user browser is used to display a real-time virus trace map.

10. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the client user is also the tracking user.

11. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the distributed computer network includes the Internet, wherein said scan log from each scanned client computer is sent back over the Internet to be received by said virus tracking server, and wherein said virus tracking display mode is accessible over the Internet by said tracking user.

12. (currently amended) A method to provide real-time virus tracking and display for use with a distributed computer network, the method comprising:

providing an anti-virus scanning program to a client end-user computer from a first anti-virus scanning server executing software from a first vendor or from a second anti-virus scanning server executing software from a second vendor, each accessible via the distributed computer network;

invoking the anti-virus scanning program from a plurality of client users having potentially infected client end-user computers by downloading said antivirus scanning program, said end-user computers being distributed over said distributed computer network;

generating a scan log from each scanned client end-user computer and sending the scan log back from each client user over said distributed computer network, the scan log detailing ~~some or all of the~~ **specific** results of the scanning program on each client end-user computer;

receiving the scan log information from said client end-user computers in real-time at the first anti-virus scanning server and the second anti-virus scanning server and transmitting the scan log information to a virus tracking server associated with the distributed computer network capable of operating with anti-virus scanning servers from multiple vendors;

processing the scan log information into virus tracking information and storing it on a database server associated with the virus-tracking server; and

retrieving the virus tracking information from the virus-tracking server; and

displaying a real-time trace on a tracking user device on the client end-user computer using the anti-virus scanning program, wherein real-time trace data are displayed in one or more maps generated by the anti-virus scanning program on the client end-user computer.

13. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 12, which further includes configuring display modes by the tracking user to show the virus-tracking information in association with user-selected geographic maps of where the viruses are occurring.

14. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 13, which further includes displaying the display modes via a plurality of web pages with user selectable menus to configure the virus-tracking information on the pages.

15. (original) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the scan log contains no information relating to the direct identification of the client user.

16. (original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the scan log includes the name of the virus, the frequency of its occurrence, and the geographic location of the infected computer.

17. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 12, which further includes providing a servlet program on the virus-tracking server to receive the scan log from the at least one anti-virus scanning server.

18. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 12, which further includes providing a polling program to regularly retrieve virus tracking information from the database server and store it in a data object.

19. (original) The method of Claim 18, which further includes providing a common gateway interface (CGI) program to retrieve the data object for display by the tracking user.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, which further includes running a Java applet on the browser of the tracking user device to display a real-time virus trace map.

21. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the client user is also the tracking user.

22. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the distributed computer network includes the Internet, wherein said scan log from each scanned client computer is sent back over the Internet to be received by said virus tracking server, and wherein said real-time trace displayed on said tracking user device is made available over the Internet.

23. (previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said virus tracking information identifies concentrations of a computer virus at said client end-user computer locations.

24. (previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said scan log information is processed by aggregating said scan logs from each client end-user computer and then synthesizing said virus tracking information.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein said virus tracking information identifies concentrations of a computer virus at said client end-user computer locations.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein processing said scan log information includes

aggregating said scan logs from each client end-user computer, and

synthesizing said virus tracking information from said aggregated scan logs.